



Trident Seafoods plant to remain closed for salmon season

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Trident Seafoods, one of the two main seafood processors in Wrangell, has decided not to operate during the upcoming salmon season. Stefanie Moreland, vice president of government relations, seafood sustainability, and corporate social responsibility with the Trident Seafoods Corporation, explained that this decision was made earlier this year. Predictions of a low abundance of salmon in Southeast Alaskan waters led them to the decision to not operate the Wrangell plant

this season. However, Moreland added, they will continue operations out of their Ketchikan and Petersburg plants.

"Since Trident acquired the Wrangell facility, we've ran it in good times and bad, but predictions for the coming season of low abundance for both pink and chum salmon in Southeast Alaska led us to the extremely difficult decision to not operate the plant," she wrote in an email to the Sentinel. "It's our hope that salmon returns throughout Southeast Alaska improve, and that we'll be in a position to resume operations



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Trident Seafoods Processing Plant, located on Shakes Street across from the Marine Bar. Members of the Trident Seafood Corporation have confirmed that the Wrangell plant will not be operating this coming salmon season.

next season."

Moreland said that they will continue to provide fleet services in the Ketchikan and Petersburg plants, where they have offered positions to Trident employees who normally work in Wrangell. A limited number of employees will be kept at the Wrangell plant, as well.

Staff at Sea Level Seafoods, the other primary processor in Wrangell, have confirmed that they are remaining open for the salmon season.

A Nov. 20, 2019 announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimated a 2020 pink salmon harvest of 12 million fish. This is a "weak" harvest, the announcement explains, while an average harvest would be between 19 to 34 million fish. A low juvenile abundance index in 2019, and abnormally warm temperatures for the year, were attributed as reasons behind the weak prediction.

"The 2020 harvest forecast of 12 million pink salmon is approximately one third of the recent 10-year average harvest of 35 million pink salmon," the announcement reads. "A harvest near this forecast would also be approximately 60 percent of the average even-year harvest since 2006. The 2019 peak June-July juvenile pink salmon index value (1.20) ranked 21st out of the 23 years that SECM information has been collected."

The closure of the plant means several things for Wrangell. Joyce Mason, finance director for the borough, said that the borough can reasonably expect less income via state fish taxes. Wrangell received \$284,469 in fish tax money this year, she said. The state does not release individual fish taxes paid by companies, she said, and Wrangell receives the money after the actual processing. As Wrangell has two main processing plants, Mason it would be natural to assume a 50 percent drop in the proceeds. She added that Wrangell could also lose revenue in utility fees.

However, there is one aspect of this closure that could be a potential benefit to Wrangell. As residents are likely aware, the water supply has been a topic of serious discussion among local officials lately. Wrangell has gone on water watches over the summer and struggled to meet the demand put on their water supply. Among the larger demands put on Wrangell's water system are the seafood processors, which require large amounts of water to do their work. Public Works Director Rolland Howell said that Trident Seafoods used over 4.6 million gallons of water from April to September. Sea Level Seafoods used over 6.9 million gallons from May to November, he also added. While the closure of Trident over the season could mean less income for Wrangell, it also could mean one less demand on its water supply in the near future.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

According to Chief Tim Bunes, with the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department, an unattended candle was likely the cause of the fire at the Jenkins' residence last week.

Unattended candle may have caused house fire

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

A Wrangell home caught fire last week, and firefighters suspect a candle is to blame. The fire occurred around 3:45 p.m. last Thursday. The residence, home to Jim "Bear" Jenkins and his son Josh Jenkins, is located on Second Street, next door to the Irene Ingle Public Library. The Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call quickly, and had the fire put out shortly after 4 p.m. Nobody was home when the fire began however, the Jenkins' dog, Rowdy, was inside at the time. Fortunately, Rowdy was rescued by firefighters with no injuries.

"We were at the house about half an hour prior to this," said Bear. "We've been working on my son Josh's boat, the *Sylvia*, and we got a phone call that the house might be on fire and we came up here."

The only injuries sustained during the incident were some cuts to Jenkins' hand, sustained trying to get into the house to rescue Rowdy, which were treated at the hospital.

Fire Chief Tim Bunes said that they suspect an unattended candle was the start of the fire. He said that what probably happened was the candle was lit, the residents got distracted, and they left without blowing it out.

Several community members have organized support for the Jenkins family. J&W's, the burger restaurant, altered their schedule to open on Monday, March 9, to hold a benefit for them. An account



COURTESY OF TIM BUNESS

The home of Bear and Josh Jenkins caught fire last Thursday afternoon, March 5. The fire department responded to the call at roughly 3:45 p.m., and had the fire put out a little after 4 p.m.

for the family has also been set up at Angerman's, for anyone wishing to donate money. Teacher and basketball coach Laurie Brown has organized a meal train, too, where people can sign up to prepare meals for the Jenkins on different days which can be found at <https://mealtrain.com/8g2k7n>.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar.

Thursday, March 12: Jackie Wenderoth, Mark Edgley. **Friday, March 13:** Savannah Wickman, Kaydin Mill, Darlene Villegas, Morgan Torvend. **Saturday, March 14:** Linda Nore, V. Cummings, Alex Hammock, Vern Phillips, Leda Klein. **Sunday, March 15:** James Campbell, Jessica Rooney, Lucy Simonek. **Monday, March 16:** Linnea Brooks, Ira Sansom, Wanda Ingram, *Anniversary:* Wes & Wanda Ingram, Paula Rak, *Anniversary:* Dan & Paula Wickman, **Tuesday, March 17:** Benjamin Paulsen, Tim Hunt, Silas Mork. **Wednesday, March 18:** Walter Maenhout, Jacoby Hunt. **Thursday, March 19:** Jared Stuhr, Ryan Soeteber, Deborah Glass, *Anniversary:* Gale & Deborah Glass, Presley Skye, Michelle Brock, Emmet Vilarma, Frank Warfel Jr.

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, March 12

Chicken Tahitian, Steam Zucchini, Coleslaw, Rice.

Friday, March 13

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes, Sunshine Salad.

Monday, March 16

Country Fried Steak, Peas, Carrot Salad, Mash Potatoes.

Tuesday, March 17

Ham Sandwich, Oriental Noodle Soup, Danish Salad.

Wednesday, March 18

Chicken Adabo, Vegetables, Salad, Rice.

Thursday, March 19

Pork Chops with Apple, Green Beans, Salad, Rice.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.
Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

March Sailings CANCELLED

Arrival times may vary.
Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 or Toll Free 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



TIDES March 12 - March 19

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time
March 12	03:25	03:48	09:29	09:42	18.9	17.6	-2.0	-0.9
March 13	04:05	04:37	10:16	10:24	18.5	16.1	-1.6	0.7
March 14	04:47	05:30	11:07	11:10	17.6	14.4	-0.7	2.4
March 15	05:36	06:36	12:05	16.4	12.8	0.4
March 16	06:36	08:01	00:04	01:13	15.1	11.8	4.1	1.5
March 17	07:55	09:30	01:14	02:38	14.1	11.8	5.5	2.1
March 18	09:20	10:41	02:47	04:08	13.9	12.6	6.1	1.9
March 19	10:32	11:36	04:24	05:16	14.4	13.7	5.5	1.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Friday, March 13

Friends of the Library Meeting: 4:00 pm, Library Meeting Room

Saturday, March 14

Stikine Stitches weekly meeting: 1:00 pm, Episcopal Parish Hall,

Monday, March 16

Community Game Night 18+yo: 5:00 pm, Stikine Inn & Restaurant

Wrangell Public School Board Session: 6:00 pm, Evergreen Elementary School Room 101

Regular School Board Meeting: 7:00 pm, Evergreen Elementary School Room 101

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low?
Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301.

Continuing Events

PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES: Mid-day closure: Monday-Friday 1:30-3:30 p.m. Closed Sunday

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class: M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Water Aerobics: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Lap Swim: M-W-F 6:00-7:30 a.m. MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. TuTh 5:15-6:15 p.m. Sa 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
2 Lane Lap Swim: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Lap/Tot Swim: MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Swim Club: M-F 3:15-5:15 p.m.
Open Swim: M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Weight Room: M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m. S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

AA Meetings:

North Star Group Meeting, St. Philip's Church. Tuesday: 7 p.m., Thursday: 8 p.m., Friday: 8 p.m.

The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

March 11, 1920

A public meeting of the people of Wrangell is hereby called to convene in the Redmen's lodge room, upstairs in the Redmen's building, on the evening of Monday, March 15, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of a public discussion of the question of whether the Town of Wrangell shall issue bonds in the manner prescribed in H.R. Bill No. 10746 which has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives and been duly signed by the Vice President and the Speaker of the House. This question will be submitted to the voters of Wrangell at a special election held on Tuesday, April 6, 1920. It is believed that a public discussion of the question will result in a better understanding of the matter thereby enabling the electors to vote more intelligently on the question. The meeting will be open to all, but an special invitation is extended to all voters, both men and women. By the order of the town council. J. W. Pritchett, Mayor.

March 9, 1945

In general science class, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, Mr. Lemke, instructor, has taken nearly a week to collect all the ideas of the pupils as to what Alaska will be like in the future. All of these papers were good and many of them were highly imaginative. One of the compositions told the bare truth, which is: "The weather will turn many people away from Alaska." After these compositions were read, Mr. Lemke talked on transportation, fishing, lumbering and other industries. He stated that all these future activities will depend on adequate transportation. We all hope that these, would you call them

"miracles"? would occur.

March 12, 1970

Clyde Lukens, a laboratory technician for Dr. D.A. Coon and Petersburg General Hospital, has received a certificate as an airplane flight instructor. Lukens, who has been flying for three years, plans to teach wheel and floatplane pilots in Petersburg and Wrangell. He will be using an aircraft owned by Eugene (Blackie) Madden of Wrangell. Lukens came to this area from Bellingham, Wash., about four years ago. Prior to moving to Petersburg in 1967, he was a lab technician at Bishop Rowe Hospital in Wrangell for a year. He said he has been working for the instructor's rating for two years.

March 9, 1995

Following a week with more than the usual number of calls concerning dogs, James Hasenohrl, acting chief of police, said the department would appreciate it if everyone would work harder on keeping dogs under control. Dogs have been

following children to morning school bus stops, Hasenohrl said, and added that "children and dogs don't mix around bus stops." With spring approaching, the warm weather is making both dogs and children more active outdoors. "They like to run," the police officer pointed out. "Make sure your dog is vaccinated and a Wrangell city license is in effect." Hasenohrl cautioned.



Call Of The Wild

Rated PG, 1hr 40min
Adventure, Drama, Family

Showtimes:

Fri. March 13 - Sun. March 15 @ 7pm

Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Mar. 2	40	36
Mar. 3	37	34
Mar. 4	39	32
Mar. 5	41	36
Mar. 6	37	29
Mar. 7	34	24
Mar. 8	38	26
Mar. 9	37	36

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar. 12	7:11a	6:45p	11:34h
Mar. 13	7:09a	6:47p	11:38h
Mar. 14	7:06a	6:49p	11:43h
Mar. 15	7:03a	6:51p	11:48h
Mar. 16	7:01a	6:53p	11:52h
Mar. 17	6:58a	6:56p	11:58h
Mar. 18	6:56a	6:58p	12:02h
Mar. 19	6:53a	7:00p	12:07h

Police report

March 2
Trespass.
Animal Complaint: Dead Deer.
Citizen Assist.
Welfare Check.
Agency Assist.
Domestic Violence Order Service.
Citizen Assist.
Stolen Bike.
March 3
Agency Assist: Parks and Rec.
Traffic Stop: Victoria Houser, 42, issued citations for failure to provide proof of insurance and expired registration.
Violation of Condition of

Release.
Traffic Compliant.
Noise Complaint: Unfounded.
March 4
Noise Complaint.
Found Property.
Agency Assist: Hoonah Police Department.
March 5
Paper Service.
Agency Assist: Structure Fire.
Citizen Assist: Unlocked Vehicle.
Citizen Assist: Unlocked Vehicle.
March 6
Information.
Agency Assist: Domestic Violence Order Service.
Julia Mieth, 17, Hit and Run

citation issued for Driver to Exercise Due Care to Avoid Collision.
March 7
Suspicious Person.
Parking.
Agency Assist: Power. Fire Department.
Extra Patrols: Trespass.
Driving Complaint.
March 8
Agency Assist.
Dead Eagle.
Traffic Stop.

During this reporting period, there were two EMT calls, three Traffic Stops and two disturbances.

Correction

The Sentinel was provided incorrect information from the United States District Court for the District of Alaska last week that led to the misspelling of a name in a story on page three of the March 5 issue of the Wrangell Sentinel. Christopher Mankse's name was incorrectly spelled as Christopher Mankse.

PFD public testimony

The House Finance Committee will be taking public testimony on House Bill 300 and 306, on Thursday, March 12th at 5:00 pm in the Legislative Information Office. The LIO is in the Kadin Building at the top of the stairs next to the Fish and Game Office. Public testimony will be limited to 2 minutes each.

House Bill 300 is relating to deposits into the dividend fund and income of and appropriations from the earnings reserve account; relating to the community assistance program and House Bill 306 is relating to deposits into the dividend fund and income of and appropriations from the earnings reserve account; establishing a permanent fund dividend task force. Contact Sarah at 874-3013 for information.

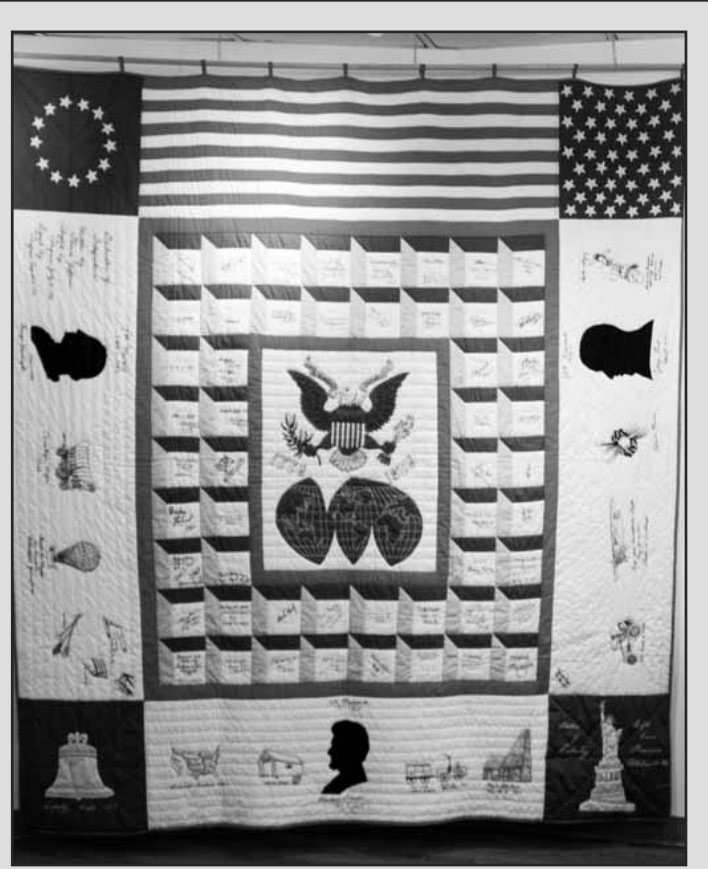


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Quilt Show at the Nolan Center

The Stikine Stitchers held an open house at the Nolan Center last Thursday evening, March 5. The quilt guild wanted to generate interest in their organization by 'showing and telling' about the quilts they'd made. Pictured here is a quilt made by Gertrude Rice entitled "America." The patriotic quilt is decorated with autographs of many famous people, including former presidents like Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, and former entertainers like Elvis and Bob Hope.

Be counted for our community.

Billions of dollars. Critical data. Representative democracy.

ONLINE RESPONSE STARTS MARCH 12.
2020census.gov

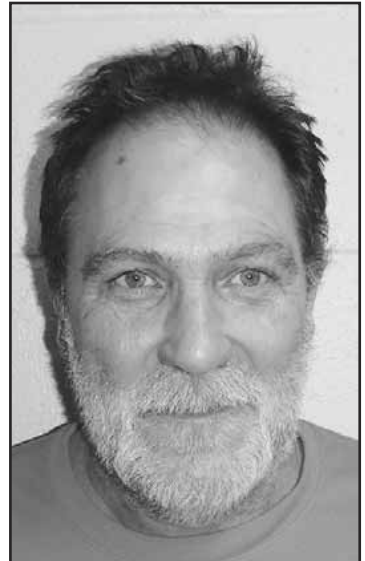


SEACAD intercepts package containing meth

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - Lloyd Bennett, 51, was indicted by a Grand Jury on Tuesday on one count of misconduct involving a controlled substance in the third degree, which is a class B felony.

On Monday, United States Postal Inspector Kevin Horne intercepted a priority mail package that was addressed to Bennett, according to a complaint filed at the Petersburg



Lloyd Bennett

Courthouse. Inside the package, Horne found about 85 grams of methamphetamine. Later that day, the package was delivered to the Petersburg Post Office and was monitored by the Southeast Alaska Communities Against Drugs, which includes Petersburg Police Department Officer Jared Popp.

Bennett picked up the package that same day and transported it back to his residence at the Narrows Inn where he opened it, according to the complaint. He was then arrested, and Bennett told authorities that he orders methamphetamine to sell in Petersburg. He made \$8,000 in the last couple months selling the drug, according to the complaint.

Bennett said the 85 grams of methamphetamine in the package cost him roughly \$800, according to the complaint.

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Dan's Dispatch

By Representative
Dan Ortiz

Earlier this week, the Alaska House of Representative passed the operating budget. It took the House 43 days of session to pass the budget, which is the fastest we have passed one since 1993. I am proud with how quickly, efficiently, and cooperatively we worked to get it done.

The budget is \$4.45 billion in Unrestricted General Funds (UGF), which reflects total state spending. It is a relatively

flat budget that is similar to last year and within \$10 million of the Governor's proposal.

Despite the limited spending, we were also able to add back funds for services that we prioritize. One of the most important increases was the \$18.7 million to our Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). Pioneer Homes received an additional \$5 million. We restored \$1 million of the \$2.7 million that was vetoed by Governor Dunleavy last year for Public Radio. The Ocean Ranger Program

was reinstated. We increased our Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program by \$1 million and added monies to the Troopers to hire an additional 36 positions.

The House operating budget did not include a dividend amount, and we will address that appropriation in a different bill this session. Now the operating budget goes over to the Senate for their input. If you have any comments or questions regarding the House budget, feel free to email me at

Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at 907-465-3824.

Death notice

Ken Perry of Timber and Marine Supply in Ketchikan, Alaska passed away on March 4. Service will be in Ketchikan, April 4 at the Ted Ferry Center. Time of service to be determined later.

Wrangell man collects 35 years of rainfall data

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

As any resident of Southeast Alaska knows, rain is a common occurrence. This is no different for Wrangell. One Wrangell resident, Bill Messmer, has made a hobby out of tracking the amount of rainfall the island receives. He has now collected 35 years of data, showing trends and changes to rainfall Wrangell has seen.

"Originally I worked for the Forest Service, and there was people that lived in different parts of Wrangell, and we had rain gauges out and there was a variety of varying differences between where people lived in town," Messmer said. "Sometimes there was a substantial difference. So I decided, well, let's just start keeping track."

Messmer retired from the Forest Service about 14 years ago, he said, but he has kept up his tracking of rainfall as a hobby. The data he has gathered stretches from 1984 to 2019. Messmer said he had some older data, as well, but he lost those calendars he recorded the data on.

Over the past 35 years, according to Messmer's data, Wrangell has received a yearly average of 92.52 inches of rain. The most total rainfall Wrangell has seen occurred in 1987, with 134.17 inches of rain that year. The most rain falls in the months of September and October, with a low-point in May and June. There is only one month in Messmer's data showing no rainfall at all, March of 1986.

"Over the years I've probably had four or five different types of rain gauges," he said. "I've tried just the tube thing ... Then, when I've gone to more electronic ones I've kept the old one, compared them for the accuracy, you know to see how close they are. Right now I'm using an electronic one."

Messmer's data follows trends indicated on other weather tracking sites, as well. U.S. Climate Data, from 1981 to 2010, shows the same high and low points for rainfall as Messmer. Weather Atlas is another website that shows similar results. The Western Regional Climate Center shows several tables for rainfall in Wrangell: 1961-1990, 1971-2000, and 1981-2010. They all show similar high and low points for rainfall, and relatively close numbers for the amount of monthly precipitation.



Bill Messmer

Looking through his data, Messmer pointed out several things that stood out to him. For one thing, he said that Wrangell is receiving less rainfall these days. From 1984 to 1991, Wrangell almost always received over 100 inches of rainfall every year. The exception to this was in 1989, with a yearly total of 93.38 inches of rain. As the years have gone by, however, years of 100-plus inches of rain have become less common. Wrangell only received 66.57 inches of rain last year. The most recent year for over 100 inches of rain was 2015, with 109.24 inches.

Another trend that Messmer pointed out was how the seasons were slowly shifting

over time. Snowfall and ice used to start showing up around October, he said, and would usually melt away in January. These days, however, he said the snowy season lasts generally from December to February.

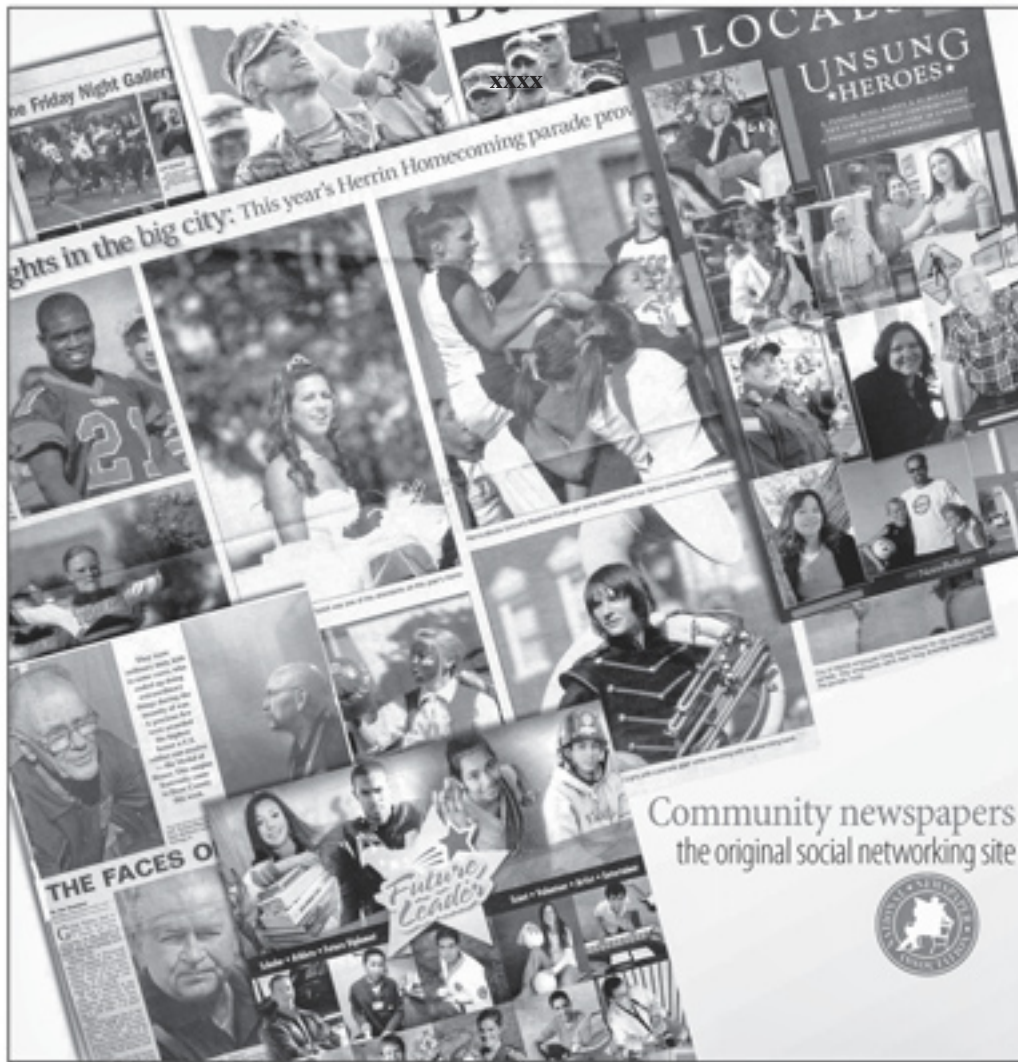
"It's just been sort of fun to do that and compare," he said. "One of the reasons I brought it in is that nobody keeps track, and I consider it sort of a historical record."

Celebration of Life

Amy and Isabelle Ferdinand would like to invite you to a *Celebration of Life* for **Randall Ferdinand** Saturday, March 21, 3:00 pm at Harbor Light Assembly of God Church



Potluck reception to follow at the Nolan Center at 4:00 pm.



Community newspapers
the original social networking site



WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Wrangell organizations collaborate in coronavirus preparedness

The City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW), the South-East Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) and local leadership met last Wednesday in the first weekly meeting to collaborate and prepare a local response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The team, consisting of CBW, SEARHC, Wrangell Medical Center (WMC), Wrangell Volunteer Fire Dept., Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Wrangell Police Dept. and local port officials, is closely monitoring information of a potential outbreak in Southeast. While the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services states that there have been no confirmed cases in Alaska to date, the community is being proactive as confirmed COVID-19 cases swell in Washington State.

“Wrangell EMS and Emergency Dispatch have instituted protocols to screen for potential coronavirus on all calls,”



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Canoe practice

As part of their training to lead excursions into the wilderness, Alaska Crossings guides spend several days learning all the finer points of paddling a canoe around Reliance Harbor. Pictured here are guides Sarah Van Hoey and Alex Cumming.

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COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

Public Service ad courtesy of Wrangell Sentinel

said Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga. “The Borough is reviewing emergency management procedures and authorities related to prevention and response. We are working closely with SEARHC to ensure coordination in planning related to coronavirus risk.”

WMC and the AICS Clinic implemented COVID-19 screening protocols for all patients in early February. WMC has taken extra measures to ensure the safety of patients and Long-Term Care residents. Points of entry are being monitored, with patients in need of emergency services required to use the ER entrance, where they will be greeted by a nurse for screening. All visitors will be directed to the nurses station for screening prior to admittance to Acute Care or Long-Term Care. Visiting hours are limited to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. until further notice.

“WMC has been at the forefront of a Consortium-wide proactive response to COVID-19,” said SEARHC Vice-President and WMC Hospital Administrator Leatha Merculieff. “SEARHC and WMC will work diligently and deliberately with leadership from across the community to ensure the correct level of care is available to each and every Wrangell resident in the event of an outbreak.”

Dr. Elliot Bruhl, SEARHC Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer, shared that SEARHC providers received COVID-19 screening

protocols in early February and all locations have been given direction to screen all patients meeting symptomatic requirements. COVID-19 symptoms are similar to those of the flu - fever, aching, cough, and shortness of breath.

“People can help prevent the threat by washing hands thoroughly and often; covering coughs and sneezes; cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects; and getting a flu shot to eliminate concerns, as COVID-19 symptoms are similar to those of influenza,” said Dr. Bruhl.

Bruhl also explained that patients with chronic illnesses like diabetes or cancer, or immune compromise should contact their doctor immediately if they become ill, however healthy people should stay home if they become sick.

If you are concerned you might have contracted the coronavirus, don’t panic, as the flu or another respiratory virus is still the most likely cause. Contact your healthcare provider for advice. If you choose to visit an emergency department, call ahead to alert staff of your coronavirus concerns and request a mask be brought out to you prior to entering to reduce the risk of exposure. For health questions or concerns outside of normal clinic hours, patients can contact the SEARHC 24/7 Nurse Advice Line at 1.800.613.0560 to be triaged by a registered nurse.

Policy Committee workshops budget policy, disposal procedures

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell School District's policy committee met last Thursday afternoon, March 5, to review policies regarding the district's budget practices and disposal procedures. On the budget policy, many of the items reviewed in the workshop were in regards to simple formatting of the policy. The policy outlines, in short, that the superintendent is expected to prepare a budget plan for the school board in a timely manner during budget season, and that school staff and the public shall have opportunities to review the budget and give their input.

Another policy the committee workshopped covered the district's procedure to get rid of school property. Some of the proposed changes for the policy give the superintendent sole responsibility to determine an item's market value before continuing with the disposal process. Surplus property that the district decides to get rid of can be disposed of by selling it, making a donation to the borough, or by being declared valueless and either sent to the dump or offered to the public for free.

Other items on the agenda for the committee to review included policies about gifts, grants, and bequests, entering into contracts on behalf of the school district, and who can be an authorized signatory on checks issued by the district.

Second Alaska Wildlife Trooper comes to Petersburg

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - The local Alaska Wildlife Trooper post held an open house on Saturday to welcome the community to their new location on Haugen Dr. and to introduce Petersburg's new wildlife trooper.

Curtis Vik transferred to Petersburg from Eagle Rover, following Cody Litster's promotion to sergeant. Vik first joined the state troopers in 2002. Since then, he has worked with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Palmer tackling property crimes and major crimes. Then from 2010 to recently, he worked with a statewide drug enforcement unit that he founded.

Feb. 16 was Vik's first day on the job in town. He and his wife have been talking about moving to Southeast Alaska for quite some time, and when the job opened up, Vik took it.

"We like being on the water

and doing the outdoor type of stuff," said Vik. "We started looking at Petersburg and all that Petersburg had. It seemed like the right fit for us."

Vik's wife, Amy, and their four kids have yet to join him in Petersburg. He is still house hunting, but when he finds a home for his family, they will come join him.

In his free time, Vik enjoys camping with his family and collecting coins. His collection of coins includes rolls of quarters that feature the 50 states, foreign coins and vintage coins.

Within the several weeks that he has been in Petersburg, Vik can already tell that he made the right decision in moving here. He said he

enjoys the laid back atmosphere of the town and its residents.

"It just seems like the people around here are generally happy and more friendly," said Vik.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Stikine Hoops Invitational

Wrangell hosted the Stikine Hoops Invitational last week, March 5 to 7. The tournament brought together AAU teams from several Southeast communities, including Sitka, Petersburg, and Juneau. "A" and "B" teams from each community competed through several days of games to get seeded in the final day's bracket. Wrangell's "A" team, the No. 3 seed, lost a game to Juneau, but came back to win their second game against Petersburg. They were finally kicked out of the bracket by Sitka. Wrangell's "B" team also received a No. 3 seed. They lost their first game to Sitka, and were kicked out of the bracket in their second game against Petersburg. Pictured here is Abby Rifenburg (No. 3) in a "B" team game against Sitka on March 6.

FORECLOSURE SALE

March 27th, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Property Address: 520 Evergreen Road, Wrangell, AK 99929

Lot Five (5), Block One (1), U.S. Survey No. 1593, Northern Addition to Wrangell, in the Wrangell Recording District, First Judicial District, State of Alaska.

2 Beds, 2 baths, and 1325 sq. feet

This property is not available for viewing prior to sale
\$125,100.00 assessed value

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Cash or Certified Funds Only

Sale Location: Inside the Main Entrance of the Juneau Courthouse at 123 Main Street (4th and Main), Juneau, AK 99801

Properties are sold "as is, where is", no warranties expressed or implied
For current information concerning the date, time and place of sale only, contact The Sayer Law Group, P.C. (319) 234 - 2530

**Property information is included at the request of the owner of the loan. The Sayer Law Group, P.C. does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy of the information, value based on total assessed value. Anyone using this information in deciding whether to bid or how much to bid at the foreclosure sale must conduct their own investigation as to the value of the property to inform their decision.

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petersburg pilot

Wrangell takes off for Regionals

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Wolves and Lady Wolves boarded the morning flight to Juneau on Tuesday morning to head to Regionals. Basketball season is drawing to a close, and the regional tournament will decide who will be going to State this year. Both teams have fought hard this season, and both have some challenging games ahead of them in Juneau.

The Lady Wolves have done well for themselves this season. They have won 11 of their 16 regular games, as well as their annual alumni game. The team has had some struggles over the past months, though, as they lost their championship title at Rally the Regions to Unalaska in January, despite winning several games in the tournament. Coach Laurie Brown has said, in several pre-

vious interviews with the Sentinel, that she is proud of her team's performance.

"We're very excited to play and we're ready," said Brown, shortly before boarding the flight.

The Wolves have had a tougher season, when compared to the girls' team. They have only won four of their regular games this year, plus an additional win during the Clarke Cochrane Tournament near the end of December. However, this has not discouraged Coach Cody Angerman. He said that every game they have played has been practice for the regional tournament. They have played hard and worked hard, he has said in previous interviews with the Sentinel, and the team has really come together over the course of the season.

"We're as ready as we can



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lady Wolf player Jamie Early going through airport security, on her way to Juneau for Regionals.

be," Angerman said before boarding the plane.

Regionals began on Wednesday, March 11. The Wolves were placed fourth in

their bracket, and went up against Craig first.

The Lady Wolves were placed second in their bracket, and went up against Peters-

burg first. Regionals will end on Friday, March 13.

The Wrangell Sentinel will print a summary of the tournament in next week's edition.

Alaska governor seeks to assert calm over virus concerns

By BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy, seeking to assert calm concerning the new coronavirus threat, said Monday he sees the fall in oil prices as a "momentary issue" that with the stock market will work itself out.

The virus has affected

global energy prices, with North Slope oil prices around \$45 a barrel at the end of last week. The state, which has struggled with a long-running deficit, relies on oil revenue and earnings from its oil-wealth fund, the Alaska Permanent Fund, to help pay for government. Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. officials have said the fund has a diversified

portfolio to help weather market turmoil.

"It's not the end of the world," Dunleavy said of the volatility. Speaking to reporters from Anchorage, he said the priority is dealing with COVID-19 and making sure Alaskans take care of their health.

The state's chief medical officer, Dr. Anne Zink, said there

were no known, confirmed cases of the virus in Alaska but said that could change.

Dunleavy put on hold town hall meetings in Kenai, Seward and Homer this week, which his office said will allow him to stay closely connected with other officials while monitoring the situation.

The town halls were meant to hear from residents on the state's fiscal situation and its future. Dunleavy, in a statement, said he plans to do Facebook town halls and hold meetings with tribes, school districts, local government officials and others by phone "until such time as we can resume travel to communities."

Meanwhile, legislative leaders plan to appoint a subcommittee to prepare for and put in place contingency plans surrounding the virus, said Daniel McDonald, communications director for the Senate majority.

Sen. Bert Stedman, co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, told reporters Friday lawmakers may need to pick up the pace of their work given the virus concerns. The Legislature has been prone to drawn-out and special sessions in recent years. Stedman said he wants to do what he can to avoid the need for any

special session this year.

The U.S. State Department, on its website, cautioned against travel on cruise ships, particularly for those with underlying health conditions. The cruise industry is a key player in Alaska's tourism economy. Often, multiple ships a day dock in Juneau during the busy summer season.

The Holland America Line cruise ship Westerdam is expected to tie up for two to three weeks at a private dock in Juneau at the end of March, the city announced last week. The city, citing the cruise company, said the ship has had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 and will have no guests on board when it arrives. Holland America did not respond to requests for comment.

The ship is expected to undergo a cleaning protocol approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before arriving in Juneau, the Juneau Empire reported Sunday.

The city expects its first cruise ship passengers in April.

Cruise Lines International Association, in a statement, said the industry is adopting additional screening measures in response to the virus.



Wrangell Health Fair 2020

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WRANGELL HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, April 4
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Nolan Center

*Blood draws will be available at the Nolan Center on:

Friday, April 3
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Low-cost lab draws will be available ONLY at the Nolan Center and will not be available at Wrangell Medical Center.

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- B12 Assay** (Vitamin B12) - \$35
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- Complete Men's Wellness Package** - \$180

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

AK shellfish farmers and divers may not be 'open for business' much longer they must pick up tab for federally required lab tests per Gov. Dunleavy's budget

Alaska shellfish farmers and divers fear they won't be 'open for business' much longer if they're forced to pick up the tab for federally required lab tests as outlined in Governor Dunleavy's budget.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed shifting the state cost to the harvesters which last year totaled almost a half million dollars.

Geoduck clam divers in Southeast Alaska, for example, pay about \$150,000 each year to collect samples that are sent to the single federally approved laboratory in Anchorage and tested for paralytic shellfish poison and other toxins. Divers also pay \$20,000 for water quality samples twice a year, and \$8,000 to test for inorganic arsenic.

"And then we pay the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game about \$25,000 a year for them to do the management and assessment of the geoduck resource," said Phil Doherty, co-director of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Association (SARDEFA).

The geoduck divers also tax themselves 7% to cover SARDEFA's \$50,000 administrative costs. In all, Doherty said it adds up to \$266,000 a year.

SARDEFA is unique in that it is the only commercial fishing group in Alaska that is taxed through legislative action to pay for state oversight of the fishery, which is centered around Craig and Ketchikan.

"We pay the department to do the work they need to do and we pay for all of the PSP sampling that needs to get done. We just don't pay for the lab costs," Doherty explained.

The geoduck fishery harvests about 650,000 pounds each year valued at around \$4 million to about 60 divers.

"Out of that \$4 million, you take the 3% fisheries tax, so that is about \$120,000 a year that goes to the state via the fisheries tax that goes into the general fund," he said.

If a testing fee of \$400 to \$700 per sample is added, Doherty said it would increase divers' costs by \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year.

"We would not have the money to pay for that," Doherty said. "And therefore, the geoduck fishery would close down. That would mean a loss to the State of \$120,000 a year in geoduck fish taxes, \$25,000 in ADF&G payments and \$20,574 for Dept. of Environmental Conservation permits."

Meanwhile, 50 or 60 geoduck dive boats and their crews have been beached for more than a month because their market in China is closed due to the coronavirus.

Meta Mesdag, owner of the Salty Lady Seafood oyster farm in Juneau and president of the Alaska Shellfish Growers Associ-



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.OCEANA.ORG/

The geoduck (pronounced "goeey duck") is a large clam native to the west coast of North America. Unlike the giant clam, which is almost all shell, the geoduck has a small shell compared to the soft part of its body, which it cannot retract into the shell. The shell rarely grows larger than about 8 inches (20 cm), but the soft body can be over 3.3 feet (~1 m) long. Geoducks burrow deep into soft, muddy or sandy sediments, and this long "neck" is actually the siphon that the clam uses to bring clean seawater down to the deeply buried shell. They are the largest of all burrowing clams.

ation, called the cost shift "an impossible ask."

In a letter to the House Finance Committee and DEC Commissioner Jason Brune, Mesdag said, "asking a nascent industry that produced \$1.6 million in revenue last year to absorb \$457,700 in program expenses will decimate shellfish farming in Alaska," reported the

"The state is fully on board with growing this industry; however, they seem to not understand that in order to do so, we must have the necessary infrastructure in place to comply with federal mandates, and it's not the farmers responsibility, but a matter of public safety," Mesdag said.

The , created in 2016 with a goal of growing a \$100 million industry in 20 years, opposes shifting the lab costs.

"This public health service assures that commercially available shellfish is safe for consumption. At the current size of the mariculture industry, the proposed fees are not financially feasible nor realistic. The rate increases will be devastating to the existing industry and will restrict future expansion," the task force wrote in a letter to the legislative finance committees.

Should it pass, Alaska will be the only state that makes its growers/divers pick up the federal testing tab.

Mesdag also questioned Alaska's high testing costs for samples from 26 Alaska shellfish oyster growers. She told the Landmine that , a private non-profit in Maine, told her they would do all of Alaska's tests for \$31,000 a year. "The industry believes that we are actually subsidizing (Alaska's) environmental health lab at \$457,700 a year for a test that should cost \$31,000

a year to operate," Mesdag said.

Alaska legislators in the House rejected the proposal in the operating budget that passed last week, and it is now up to the state Senate - and the governor's veto pen - to decide.

Warm bottom crashed cod - Warmer temperatures on the ocean bottom were key to causing the cod crash in the Gulf of Alaska.

That's the that connected low numbers of cod larvae, juveniles and adults to loss of spawning grounds in the 2013-2016 heatwave called "the Blob" - the largest warm water anomaly ever recorded in the North Pacific.

Pacific cod are unique among all cod species because they only spawn once in a season and have eggs that adhere to the ocean floor. Females can actually place their eggs in habitats with temperatures that optimize hatch success.

Researchers Ben Laurel and Lauren Rogers at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Newport, Oregon determined that Pacific cod eggs have a very narrow bottom temperature range for hatching success, much narrower than Alaska pollock or Atlantic cod. The Blob caused Gulf of Alaska waters to reach nearly 61 degrees, compared to a norm closer to 50 degrees. Right after, biologists saw no first year cod.

"A lot can happen in that first year of life that we would like to learn more about how to predict whether or not these year classes coming through are actually going to survive. But there is always variability and uncertainty that we have to be braced for," Laurel said in a previous interview, adding that data on young Gulf cod go back to 2005.

future."

The report titled Loss of spawning habitat and prerecruits of Pacific cod during a Gulf of Alaska heatwave, appears in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Fishy winners - Bullwhip Hot Sauce was the biggest winner in the final round of the Alaska Symphony of Seafood competition in Juneau. The hot sauce, made with bull kelp by Juneau-based Barnacle Seafoods, took home the Grand Prize in a field of 20 entries, four of which were seaweed products.

The Symphony contest begins in November at Pacific Marine Expo where all entries are judged by an expert panel and first place winners are announced. Second and third place and the grand prize winners are kept under wraps until the Juneau event where legislators and others select their favorites in three categories: retail, foodservice and Beyond the Plate, which features items made from seafood byproducts.

"It can be things that are edible such as fish oil capsules, or things that are nonedible such as salmon leather wallets," said Julie Decker, executive director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, host of the Symphony for 27 years.

Barnacle's Bullwhip Hot Sauce also took first place at retail. A Cod Fish and Chips Meal

Continued on page 9



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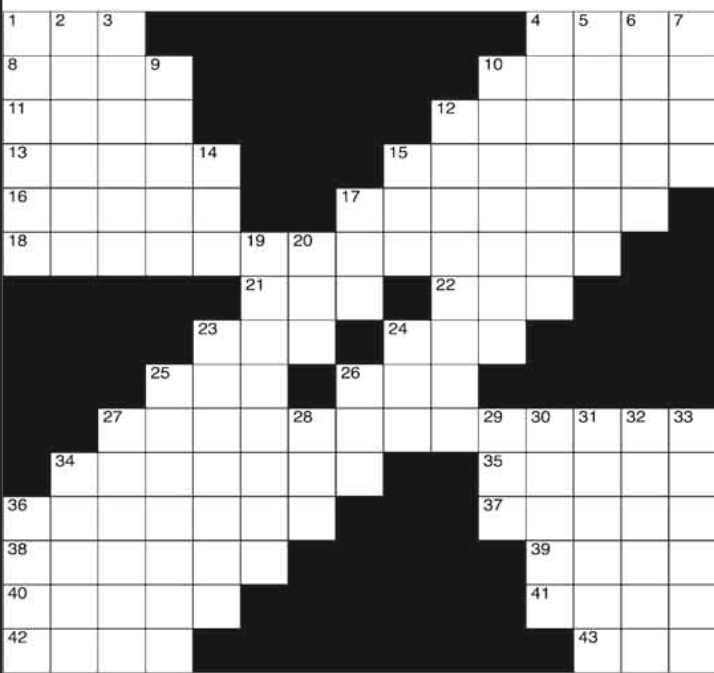
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Comics



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A team's best pitcher
- 4. Designer Jacobs
- 8. Hip joint
- 10. A dialect of English
- 11. Portrays
- 12. Panic
- 13. The head of a team
- 15. High priest
- 16. League of Legends locale
- 17. Protective folds
- 18. Treats allergies
- 21. Voodoo spirits
- 22. Single unit
- 23. Unit of measurement
- 24. Brew
- 25. Burundian franc
- 26. Self
- 27. Bengals great
- 34. Making letters overlap
- 35. Piece of pizza
- 36. Illegal drug
- 37. Card game
- 38. The highest point in the development
- 39. Oh, God!
- 40. Wives (law)
- 41. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 42. Supplements with difficulty
- 43. Valentine's Day color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Warm climate tree or shrub
- 2. Silky case spun by larvae
- 3. Still in existence
- 4. Light, two-stranded rope
- 5. Wear away
- 6. Beginnings
- 7. Essence
- 9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- 10. Path
- 12. Repeated tones
- 14. Expresses surprise
- 15. Monetary unit of Burma
- 17. When you hope to get there
- 19. Brighten
- 20. Fifth note of a major scale
- 23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
- 24. We all do it
- 25. Scrounges
- 26. Unit of energy
- 27. Begin to be
- 28. Midway between northeast and east
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Succulent plants
- 31. Performer
- 32. Gas station term
- 33. Required
- 34. Soviet monetary unit
- 36. Eating house

Fish Factor

Continued from page 8

Kit by Alaskan Leader Seafoods placed second and Sea Asparagus Pesto by Seattle's Foraged and Found came in third.

For foodservice, Alaska Southern Style Wild Wings by High Liner Foods took top honors. Second was Alaskan Kombu Seaweed made with Kodiak kelp

by Blue Evolution. Salmon Dumplings by Tai Foong USA placed third.

For Beyond the Plate, Juneau's WILD by Nature Alaskan Fish Skin Jewelry came in first, followed by Pescadots dog treats from Drool Central, a Mum and Pup Barkery of Anchorage.

Top winners were set to travel to the big Seafood Expo North America next week in Boston which was postponed due to the Coronavirus.

Fish givers - American Seafoods is accepting applications for its community grant program from Kodiak Island, Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, Western Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Norton Sound and regions north.

The majority of awards will range from \$1,000 to \$7,500 each for a total of \$45,000. Since 1997, American Seafoods has granted over \$1.7 million to Alaska organizations and programs.

Request forms are available at or contact Kim Lynch (; 206-256-2659.

The deadline is April 13; grant recipients will be announced on April 29.



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CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEASONAL JOB POSTING

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will accept applications for the positions of **Park Maintenance I** until the position has been filled. First review of applications will take place on March 25, 2020. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Alaska Driver's License and have knowledge of power tools and be familiar with grounds maintenance and repairs. Applicants must be able to work through September. Position is full time, temporary.

Duties include both skilled and semi-skilled work in landscape, mowing, weed-eating, grounds maintenance, repairs and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields and cemeteries. Pay range \$16.00-18.00/hr. DOE. Applicants will have to pass a pre-employment drug screening and a criminal background check.

Applications and full job description may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 5 and 12, 2020

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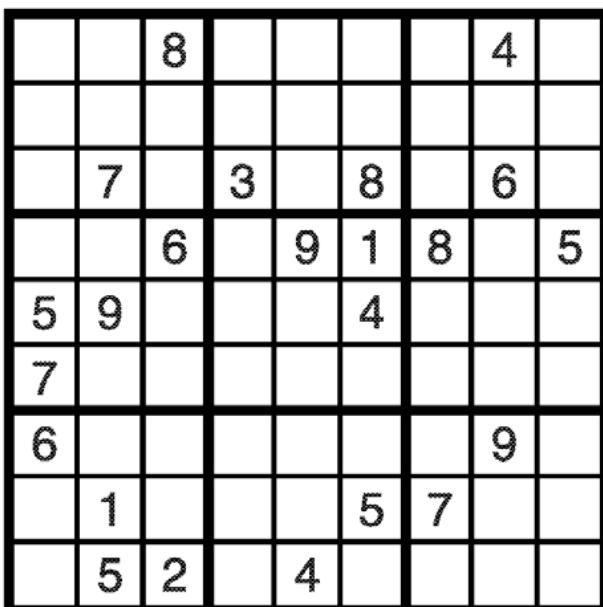
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Level: intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the March 19 edition

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April 13-16	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Morison	907-228-7649
April 13-17	Urology Clinic - Dr. Schoenrock	907-225-7346
April 21-22	Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Beglin	888-739-2700
May 4-15	Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic - Dr. Christensen	907-228-8101
May 12-15	G.I. Clinic - Dr. Woods	907-228-8101
May 12-13	Oncology - Dr. Raish	907-228-8101
June 1-2	Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Liu	888-739-2700
June 9-11	Oncology - Dr. Raish	907-228-8101



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Federal Subsistence Meeting

The public is invited to attend and participate.

March 24 - 26, 2020

in Juneau at the Central Council Tlingit & Haida-Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall starting at 10:30 a.m. on March 24, and at 9:00 a.m. March 25-26

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council will meet to develop proposals to change Federal subsistence fish and shellfish regulations and discuss other issues related to subsistence in the Southeast Region. Participate in person or by teleconference, (866) 560-5984 (passcode 12960066).

For meeting materials and other information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program, visit: www.doi.gov/subsistence or call the Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456.

If you need special accommodations for disabilities, such as sign language interpretation, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at least seven business days prior to the meeting.

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JOB
WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2019-2020 school year: Paraprofessionals: These are part-time instructional aide positions working with students, 5.75 hours per day in small groups or one-on-one. An associate degree or equivalent is preferred but not required. For a complete job description and salary schedule, please contact the district office at 874-2347. Substitute Employees: These on-call positions working as a temporary custodian, secretary, teacher or paraprofessional during absences of regular staff members. Positions open until filled. It is Wrangell Public School District's policy to not

discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability. 1x3-12b106



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CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Public Announcement ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF Senior Sales Assistant

The Nolan Center will be accepting applications for a Senior Sales Assistant. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and this position is open until filled. This is a temporary, non-benefited, part-time position working between 15 and 30 hours a week.

The Senior Sales Assistant is the Nolan Center Director's chief assistant in the gift shop and is the biggest day-to-day influence on the gift shop. The Senior Sales Assistant is responsible for the security of the museum and gift shop, and so bears a high degree of responsibility. This position opens and closes the museum and gift shop, operates and balances the cash register daily, assists with inventory, and answers visitor questions. Must be knowledgeable about Wrangell, personable, and welcoming to visitors. This person must be versatile and ready to assist at many different types of tasks.

Applicants must be willing to a work flexible schedule and weekends. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and able to pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to amollen@wrangell.com.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 5 and 12, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Public Announcement ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF Nolan Center Attendant

The Nolan Center will be accepting applications for a Nolan Center Attendant. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and this position is open until filled. This is a temporary, non-benefited, part-time position working between 15 and 30 hours a week.

This position works in the gift shop, Civic Center, and theater in a relief position and to help handle the influx of visitors that come into Wrangell. Must be knowledgeable about Wrangell, personable, and welcoming to visitors. The position is tasked with keeping the Nolan Center functioning smoothly throughout the variety of different events and uses that take place at the facility. The Nolan Center Attendant must be versatile and ready to assist at many different types of tasks including but not limited to event prep, gardening, cleaning, kitchen work, visitor response, theater box office.

Applicants must be willing to a work flexible schedule and weekends. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and able to pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to amollen@wrangell.com.

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Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 5 and 12, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ANNOUNCEMENT WRANGELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER DIESEL ELECTRIC MECHANIC ASSISTANT

The Wrangell Municipal Light and Power Department will accept applications for the position of Diesel Electric Mechanic Assistant through March 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits and is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

The Diesel Electric Mechanic Assistant assists the Diesel Electric Mechanic with maintaining and operating standby electrical generation facility. When regular duties permit or circumstances require, assists the Line Department as a ground person or equipment operator. Occasionally works with other City departments, assisting in special projects. This position performs scheduled or routine maintenance on diesel engines, generators, electrical switchboards, compressors, control systems, pumps and other related equipment as directed by the Diesel Electric Mechanic and assists with operating generators during scheduled and emergency outages.

The position requires knowledge of diesel mechanics and operations, generator operation, voltage regulators, AC generation control and protection systems, and safety standards and the expertise needed to conform to them.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 19 with a starting wage at \$24.28 per hour. Employment is based on a successful background check and pre-employment drug screening.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Aleisha Mollen at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email at amollen@wrangell.com.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 12 and 19, 2020

Puzzle answers from March 5 Edition

A	B	A	C	A	S	L	O	E	T	A	B	I		
B	A	S	E	L	P	E	R	T	A	I	N	E	D	
A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	S
S	H	I	H	A	S	Y	P	R	E	S				
		T	O	T	G	L	E	E						
	S	P	A	T	H	E	R	D	E	D				
A	T	A	R		L	A	N	E	P	A	T			
D	A	N	E		M	A	T	T	E	D	E	B	S	
P	M	T	B	E	N	D		Y	E	A	H			
P	A	R	E	N	T	S	A	N	S					
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1	7	2	5	9	3	4	6	8
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6	4	5	7	1	8	2	3	9
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4	2	1	9	8	5	6	7	3
5	6	7	3	4	1	9	8	2
9	5	6	8	3	4	7	2	1
2	1	3	6	7	9	8	4	5
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Port Commission continues workshopping cruise ship fee changes, jet boat fees

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Port Commission continued its discussion of increasing the fees they gather from visiting cruise ships last week, March 5. This has been an ongoing topic of discussion for the commission for several months now. Harbor Master Greg Meissner has iterated in several meetings that the city needed more money for a variety of reasons. As things stood now,

he said, the port is barely profitable. During their previous discussion back in February, he said they only bring in about \$8,000 to \$10,000 of profit. They needed to increase that profit margin if they wanted to consider renovations or expansion, he said.

"These big items take money, so we need to start putting some money in the bank and adding some cash to these projects," Meissner said.

Wrangell currently collects



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

New location for Twisted Root Market

Twisted Root Market, Wrangell's health food store, has a new location. They have relocated from Shakes Street, next to the laundromat, to Front Street. Pictured here is Sierra Roland manning the store.

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska NOTICE INVITING BIDS CITY DOCK SUMMER FLOAT PROCUREMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the purchase of one 10' x 130' Float for the Wrangell City Dock. The Work consists of all activities necessary to construct and delivery the float as described in the contract documents. The Borough's estimate for the float is approximately \$60,000-\$70,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:00 PM prevailing time on March 24, 2020.

Complete bidding/contract documents for this project are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

OWNER: The City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Bargen, Borough Manager
Publish March 12 and 19, 2020

In the Matter of the Yvonne N.)
Stough Trust)
Ruth Ann Stough, Trustee)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to AS 13.36.368, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ruth Ann Stough (previously Ruth Ann Hagen) is the trustee of the Yvonne N. Stough Trust dated January 30, 2003. All persons having claims against Yvonne N. Stough or the Yvonne N. Stough Trust dated January 30, 2003 and any amendments thereto are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to Ruth Ann Stough, Trustee, c/o Faulkner Banfield, P.C., 8420 Airport Boulevard, Suite 101, Juneau, Alaska 99801-6924.

Dated: 09/27/2020
Ruth Ann Stough, Trustee

Published: March 5, 12 and 19, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEASONAL JOB POSTING

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will accept applications for the position of **Park Maintenance II** until the position has been filled. The first review of applications will take place on April 1, 2020. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Alaska Driver's License and have knowledge of power tools and be familiar with grounds maintenance and repairs. Applicants must be able to work through August. Position is full time, temporary.

Duties include both skilled and semi-skilled work in landscape, mowing, weed-eating, grounds maintenance, repairs and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields and cemeteries. Pay range \$14.00/hr. - \$16.00/hr. DOE.

Applications and full job descriptions may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Lisa Von Bargen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 12 and 19, 2020

USFS explains Tongass watershed

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - Heath Whitacre, of the Petersburg Forest Service, went into detail on the Forest Service's efforts to maintain and restore watershed conditions in the Tongass National Forest late last month as part of a series of science talks featuring local professionals.

A properly functioning watershed can create and sustain habitats that can support a diverse population of aquatic wildlife, including salmon. According to Whitacre, 80 percent of the Southeast Alaska commercial salmon harvest comes from Tongass watersheds. He said that most of the salmon producing watersheds have been properly maintained and are in good condition.

"When I think of a healthy watershed, I think of a resilient watershed," said Whitacre. "It'll recover rapidly from natural and human disturbances."

The USFS follows several steps to maintain and restore watersheds. First, Forest Service staff classifies a watershed's condition. They then prioritize watersheds in need of restoration and create an action plan. After the Forest Service

bring up the total amount of money the port brings in to \$230 to \$240,000, approximately.

Cruise ship fees were not the only topic of discussion. The port commission is also considering new fees for the local jet boat operators, the people taking out tourists on small boating excursions. The commission has tried to hold meetings with jet boat operators to discuss this in the past, Meissner said, but they have had low turnout. What the commission considered in their

meeting was a monthly fee of \$5 per seat on a jet boat.

"So we need to raise rates, and that means everybody, not just ships," Meissner said. "Ships are obviously the bigger payer and probably going to pay 90 percent of the bill when you look at what that place generates, but there's no reason why jet boaters shouldn't pay something."

As this was only a work session, no action was taken on any of the proposals.

implements their plan, they track the accomplishments of the restoration project and continue to monitor its condition.

When analyzing a watershed, the Forest Service looks at the water's physical and biological condition, as well as the surrounding terrain, said Whitacre. Available habitat, vegetation condition and road and trail proximity have the biggest impact on watershed condition.

Watershed restoration might include the replacement or removal of a culvert, a structure used to allow water passage under a road or trail, depending on the amount of habitat upstream, said Whitacre. The culvert could restrict the passage of aquatic wildlife to the coveted habitat. The Forest Service might also place wood and logs into streams to restore habitat. Wood may also be added to the floodplain surrounding the watershed.

"By putting wood back into the floodplain, you're basically adding a roughness component that provides resilience during high flows," said Whitacre. "If the stream gets flooded out and it comes over the banks, now it's got that structure to hold back that bank."

Assembly holds workshop on school district budget, approves tax refund

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Members of the Wrangell Borough Assembly and the Wrangell School District met Tuesday evening, March 10, to hold a work session on the district's newest budget. Both the borough and school district are going through their budget season. As the district is part of the borough, the borough regularly makes a contribution to the budget, and said budget comes before the borough for approval before being sent up to the state; both parties regularly collaborate on the project.

This upcoming budget for FY 2021, as of the workshop, has revenues set at a little less than \$5.68 million and expenses set at a little less than \$6.07 million. The way numbers stand now, the district would be operating at a deficit this upcoming year. The district's current budget, for FY 2020, is also operating at a deficit. Spreadsheets shared in the workshop show that the district intends to use about \$668,000 in savings to balance the budget at the end of the year, as well as to provide a fund balance for the beginning of next year.

Superintendent Debbe Lancaster opened the meeting by going over some of the assumptions the district was making with the current draft of the FY 2021 budget. The district is assuming health insurance and property insurance costs will increase. They are also anticipating the same local contribution from the borough as last year, or \$1.3 million in total. The district is also expecting to be teaching around 316 children this upcoming year, which School Board Member Aaron Angerman pointed out would continue a multi-year trend of growing numbers. They are also expecting flat funding from the state level this year. However, the importance of "assumption" was emphasized on this point. Lancaster pointed out in her presentation that state funding has mostly been flat in previous years, and there was some talk in Juneau about increasing funding, but those talks have all been preliminary by that point. Current events have also cast some doubt on what the state might do in the future.

"Given what's going on with oil prices right now, what I'm hearing through the municipal side of things is expect shock and expect some significant changes," Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said. "The operating budget that passed the House, my guess is, may have to be significantly altered by the Senate."

Lancaster went into some details of the budget and all its different aspects. She reminded everyone present in

the workshop to remember that FY 2021 was still in its draft phase. None of the numbers she was presenting were set in stone. Both certified and non-certified salaries would be increasing in FY 2021, compared to FY 2020. Staff and student travel expenses are being decreased. Spending for operations and maintenance would be cut by almost \$50,000, to a total of \$771,607. One cut Lancaster pointed out was "supplies, materials, and media" expenses. Employee benefits will also be increasing by a little less than \$125,000. This will be decreased by about \$83,000 in FY 2021, she said, from about \$307,000 this year to \$224,000 next year.

"I want you to listen to the word 'reduction,'" Lancaster said. "Because I know it's in everybody's mind because the borough has to cut their budget by \$3 to \$500,000 this year. These are reductions that we're looking at, so please pay attention to the reductions."

Lancaster also informed the borough assembly that the district was looking into many different ways to potentially cut costs and increase revenue. The ideas being thrown around are quite varied. Some include consolidating the district into two main buildings instead of three, generating more revenue from sports, operating a student-run retail store, charging other organizations for use of school buildings, and simply becoming more aggressive about applying for grants.

The workshop went on for about an hour and a half, with Lancaster and other school board members giving a detailed report of the draft budget, and how it stacked up to previous budgets. It ended with Assembly Member Julie Decker stating her concerns about deficit spending, both in the school district and in the borough, as well as Von Barga asking the district to supply the actual expenses for FY 2020, compared to budgeted expenses, when they became available.

"I want to say that this is my seventh year on the assembly, and this is the best presentation on the school budget, and I appreciate all the work that everyone has done," Decker said.

After a brief recess, the assembly reconvened to hold a regular meeting. The assembly revisited an item that has been hounding the borough for quite some time. The Bakke family, Arnold and Alice, discovered several years ago that they have been overpaying on their property taxes since 1994. The family has requested a full refund of their overpaid taxes. From 1994 to 2019, the overpaid taxes and interest totals approximately \$12,000. How-

ever, one of the issues that has stopped the assembly from providing this refund is a question on the statute of limitations. The state provides a six-year statute of limitation on overpaid taxes and interest. The assembly feared that by breaking this statute to fully refund the Bakkes, they could set a dangerous precedent. However, the borough and the Bakke family have managed to reach a compromise.

"What I asked the Bakkes if they would be willing to do was accept a full repayment of the overpaid taxes, but that the interest would be capped at the six-year statute of limitations," Von Barga said.

In summary, the borough offered the Bakkes full repayment of the overpaid taxes, or \$3,736. They also offered to pay back the compounding interest for the six-year statute of limitations, \$5,952.96. They also offered to cover \$750 in expenses the family incurred preparing calculations and presentations to the borough on the matter. The total cost came out to \$10,438.96. After some brief discussion amongst the borough, the item was approved.

Among several other items covered in the meeting, the assembly also approved a



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Raven on a truck

A raven, one of many that reside on Wrangell Island, perches on a truck bed near the inner harbor.

senior property tax exemption that was received after the March 1 deadline but before the end of the late filing grace period. They also approved of various changes to the job description of Wrangell's Harbor Master, to more accurately describe

the post's duties and to change the job title to "Port and Harbor Director." The assembly also approved of a resolution to create a new tier of health insurance coverage for permanent employees working below 40-hours a week.

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